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BOROUGH OF BASINGSTOKE



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1962



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BOROUGH OF BASINGSTOKE

HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1962

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR (COUNCILLOR J. B. PEAT,
J.P.)

COUNCILLOR J. F. BALDING (*Chairman*)

COUNCILLOR MRS. J. M. GIFFORD (*Vice-Chairman*)

ALDERMAN J. G. WELLING

COUNCILLOR R. G. EHLEN

COUNCILLOR E. KNIGHT

COUNCILLOR MISS N. K. LAWFORD

COUNCILLOR MRS. M. MURRELL

COUNCILLOR H. REDSTALL

COUNCILLOR A. RENNIE

COUNCILLOR J. ROBERTS

(deceased 31.5.62)

BASINGSTOKE BOROUGH DISTRICT HEALTH SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL

Members of the Basingstoke Borough Health Committee and

C. H. GIBBONS, Esq., C.C.

P. W. MEDD, Esq., O.B.E., C.C.

MISS S. KINGDON

MRS. E. A. LEE

MRS. R. J. NOAKES

MRS. E. RICHARDSON

M. J. WILLIAMS, Esq., M.B., B.S.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

(As at 31st December, 1962)

Medical Officer of Health

T. E. ROBERTS M.B.(Lond), M.R.C.S., D.(OBST), R.C.O.G. D.P.H. (also
Medical Officer of Health to Basingstoke Rural District Council and
Assistant County Medical Officer, Hampshire County Council)

Senior Public Health Inspector

C. H. DAVID M.A.P.H.I.
(also Petroleum and Shops Act Inspector)

Additional Public Health Inspectors

R. M. BORLASE, M.A.P.H.I.

A. R. HONESS, M.A.P.H.I.

Clerical Staff

P. E. K. HUNT (Senior Clerk)

MISS E. A. TATLOW

MISS M. A. ANNETTE

MRS. K. KEMPSON

Rodent Operative

R. RUMBLE

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.
MARKET CHAMBERS,
CHURCH STREET.
BASINGSTOKE.

TEL. NO. BASINGSTOKE 600

October, 1963.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Basingstoke.*

YOUR WORSHIP, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the health of the Borough of Basingstoke for the year 1962.

The seasonal epidemic which began in the last few days of 1961 extended well into January 1962, producing the highest figure for new sickness benefit claims for any January since my Department first started to record these claims, eleven years ago.

Vital Statistics

In an area which has been increasing at a steady rate and is now beginning to show signs of accelerating even more, it is hard to realise that last year's gain of 980, as shown by the Registrar General's mid-year estimate, was the smallest gain for the past four years, especially as births exceeded deaths by 403.

The steady decline in the Birth Comparability Factor, and the opposite trend in the Death Comparability Factor, illustrates that the population is a young one.

In the country as a whole, it is indeed unfortunate that the decline in the perinatal mortality rate has not kept pace with that of infant mortality. Until greater research, which must be undertaken on a national level, is carried out, it is difficult to see how these figures can be improved upon. If we are to make any headway in this field, then not only have we to ensure the attendances of mothers-to-be at their doctors at the earliest possible moment, but the day to day activities of mothers-to-be, if possible from the moment of conception to the twentieth week of pregnancy, must be subject to the closest scrutiny.

Social Circumstances

The creation of a new, or an expanding town, presents the formidable problem of ensuring that all systems are constructed to meet the needs and priorities of such a community. It is, therefore, to be hoped even at this late stage, that the efforts of the Council and

General Practitioners to bring forward the building of our new hospital will not have fallen on deaf or uninterested ears. It would indeed be a great pity if the town were to become a "problem town," being able to show its quota of "bingo" and "bowling halls," but having to apologize that they have inadequate facilities for hospital services for many years to come, and that if its citizens are to escape the journeys to Alton and Winchester they will have to resort to the motto of "early to bed, etc."

During the year a number of complaints were received regarding the sanitary conveniences of certain schools in the Borough. It is indeed a great pity that the attitude adopted towards improving these facilities is the limited life of a school in view of the town expansion, (admitted to be at least five years). One must remember that five years represents the total educational life of a primary school child and these are the most impressionable ones. Having had to endure adverse sanitary conditions for these years, it is not surprising that bad hygienic habits are acquired and retained by these children. We then spend money on health education stressing "Toilet Hygiene."

One of the happy occasions of the year was the inauguration of the Old People's Welfare Committee, which brought together various voluntary bodies and co-ordinated their very good work towards the Senior Citizens of the town. After only a short time in being, the beneficial effort of this Committee was beginning to make itself felt, both in home visiting and in indicating the need for an extension of the Chiropody Service. The formation of this new Committee, and the opening of the first specially planned accommodation for the elderly people of the Borough were two instances which showed that the needs of these people were never far from the minds of the Authorities.

My thanks are due to all the General Practitioners in the town for their help during the past year—to the members of the Health Committee for their enthusiasm and to all the Staff of my Department for their work throughout the year.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

T. E. ROBERTS,

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area in Acres	5,180
Population—Registrar General's Estimate, Mid-1962	26,990
Number of inhabited houses, etc. (according to Rate Books as at 1st April, 1963)	8,994
Rateable Value (as at 1st April, 1963)	£1,297,228
Product of a Penny Rate (Estimated 1963/1964)	£5,500

VITAL STATISTICS

	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958
Live Births	621	585	541	463	427
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	23.41	22.49	22.0	20.02	19.58
Still Births—Legitimate	10	5	9	11	7
Illegitimate	1	1	0	0	2
Total	11	6	9	11	9
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births	18.9	10.1	18.1	23.2	20.6
Total Live and Still Births	632	591	550	474	436
Infant Deaths	13	10	9	7	11
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000					
Live Births—Legitimate	19.3	17.0	17.4	15.1	24.1
Illegitimate	1.6	Nil	Nil	Nil	76.9
Total	20.9	17.0	16.6	15.1	25.7
Neonatal (First Four Weeks) Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	17.7	11.9	7.3	8.6	18.7
Early neonatal (Deaths under 1 week) Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	12.8	11.9	7.3	8.6	—
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Still Births and Deaths under 1 week combined) per 1,000 Live Births	30.1	21.9	23.6	31.4	—
Illegitimate Live Births % of Total					
Live Births	5.4	4.6	4.6	3.9	3.0
Maternal Deaths (including Abortion)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Comparability Factors—Births	0.89	0.89	0.92	0.92	0.93
Deaths	1.25	1.25	1.18	1.18	1.14

Births

	Male	Female	Total	1961	1960	1959	1958
Live Births—Legitimate	297	324	621	558	516	445	414
Illegitimate	15	19	34	27	25	18	13
Birth Rate per 1,000 total population (corrected)			20.8	20.1	20.2	18.4	18.1
Average for England and Wales			18.0	17.4	17.1	16.5	16.4

Deaths

	Male	Female	Total	1961	1960	1959	1958
From all causes	136	132	268	215	241	209	202
Death Rate per 1,000 population (corrected)			12.4	15.1	10.00	10.46	10.23
Average for England and Wales			11.9	12.00	11.5	11.6	11.7

ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH

Code No.	Disease	Male	Female	Total	1961	1960	1959
1	Tuberculosis—respiratory . . .	—	—	—	1	2	1
2	Tuberculosis—other . . .	—	1	1	—	—	—
8	Measles . . .	—	—	—	1	—	—
9	Other Infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—	—	1	—
10	Malignant neoplasm—stomach . .	3	2	5	6	4	9
11	" " lung, bronchus . .	11	1	12	11	15	7
12	" " breast . . .	—	4	4	5	5	5
13	" " uterus . . .	—	4	4	—	4	2
14	" " others and lymphatic	9	9	18	27	22	21
15	Leukaemia	—	—	—	—	1	2
16	Diabetes	1	—	1	2	3	1
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	15	16	31	23	33	29
18	Coronary disease—angina . .	27	27	54	47	41	33
19	Hypertension with heart disease .	1	5	6	5	9	7
20	Other heart disease	17	23	40	24	30	26
21	Other circulatory disease . . .	5	7	12	13	12	9
22	Influenza	—	—	—	—	1	4
23	Pneumonia	7	12	19	13	8	16
24	Bronchitis	11	1	12	6	10	5
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	2	—	2	2	3	4
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .	2	1	3	1	3	3
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .	1	3	4	—	—	1
28	Nephritis and nephrosis . . .	2	2	4	1	1	1
29	Hyperplasia of prostate . . .	—	—	—	1	3	3
31	Congenital malformations . . .	1	—	1	1	2	2
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	11	13	24	17	17	14
33	Motor vehicle accidents . . .	2	—	2	3	4	—
34	All other accidents	6	1	7	4	5	1
35	Suicide	2	—	2	1	2	2
36	Homicide	—	—	—	—	—	1

AGE DISTRIBUTION

Group	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	9	4	13
1—14	2	1	3
15—24	—	—	—
25—64	43	25	68
65—74	39	29	68
75—90	42	65	107
90+	1	8	9
Totals	136	132	268

MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS — Deaths associated with:

Classification	No. of deaths			Average Age at Death		Age Range
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	
Lung and Bronchus	11	1	12	67	77	55 — 80
Stomach	3	2	5	64	75	64 — 82
Breast	—	4	4	—	65	52 — 83
Others	9	13	22	62	67	49 — 89

CAUSES OF DEATHS IN INFANTS

Cause	24 hours	Within 1 week	1—4 weeks	1 Month — 1 year
Congenital Malformation	1	—	—	—
Prematurity	3	1	—	—
Pneumonia	—	2	1	1
Inhalation of vomitus	—	—	—	1
Atelectasis	2	—	—	—
Inquest (Open Verdict)	1	—	—	—

DEATHS IN AGE AND SEX GROUPS expressed as a percentage of all deaths:

Group	1962			1961		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	3.4	1.5	4.9	2.3	2.3	4.6
1—14	0.7	0.4	1.1	0.9	0.5	1.4
15—24	—	—	—	—	0.5	0.5
25—64	16.0	9.3	25.4	12.5	10.3	22.8
65—74	14.6	10.8	25.3	17.3	7.4	24.7
75—90	15.7	24.3	40.0	18.2	24.2	42.4
90+	0.4	2.9	3.3	1.3	2.3	3.6

Average age of Death 68.4 (67.62*)

Average age of Male Deaths 64.36 (65.5*)

Average age of Female Deaths 72.49 (69.75*)

* The figures in brackets refer to 1961

EPIDEMIOLOGY

(1) General Health

(a) Record of new claims to sickness benefit received at Basingstoke National Insurance Office:

Month	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958
January . . .	1140	923	676	700	681
February . . .	672	1023	672	1218	579
March . . .	621	717	656*	969*	538
April . . .	548*	461	495	490	480*
May . . .	447	434*	464	289	361
June . . .	415	572	313	371*	398
July . . .	348*	417	472	382	364*
August . . .	362	352*	380*	323	296
September . .	417	419	432	432*	372*
October . . .	456*	474*	493	451	459
November . . .	586	446	585*	534	529
December . . .	609	632	466	503*	468*

* Five-week periods reduced to four weeks for comparison

(b) Attendance at Schools in the Borough expressed as percentages:

Term	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958
Spring . . .	91.6	90.3	88.1	86.8	89.6
Summer . . .	93.0	92.4	92.4	92.8	93.1
Autumn . . .	92.2	93.0	92.5	91.2	92.0

The occurrence of an outbreak of "seasonal winter ailments" towards the end of last year, coupled with the delay of postal deliveries, resulted in a huge claim for sickness benefits in the first month of the year — the highest monthly claim since February 1959.

The attendance at Schools in the Borough, however, kept up the past good record of the previous year, and the figure for the Autumn Term would no doubt have been higher were it not for an outbreak of Chicken-pox and Mumps in Infant Schools.

(2) Infectious Diseases

(a) Notification received during the year were:

Measles	4
Tuberculosis — Respiratory	4
Tuberculosis — Non Respiratory	1
Food Poisoning	—
Whooping Cough	—
Scarlet Fever	1
<hr/>	
Total	10
	<hr/>

(b) **Tuberculosis:** The following table indicates the incidence of new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the year:

Age	M.	F.	Total	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957
Under 5 .	—	—	—	6	8	21	7	14
5-20 .	—	—	—					
21-40 .	—	—	—					
41-60 .	2	1	3					
61+ .	1	—	1					

The Mass X-Ray now have a regular monthly session on the first Tuesday of each month at Basingstoke Hospital:

(3) Vaccinations and Inoculations

(a) **B.C.G.:** During the year children of certain age groups in Secondary Schools were tested, and B.C.G. was offered to those requiring it.

(b) **Smallpox:** Children under one year vaccinated in 1962 (expressed as a percentage of live births in 1961).

Basingstoke Borough	60.1%
Hampshire County	58.8%

(c) **Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus:** The high immunity level in the Child population is still being maintained and of the children born in 1961, 88% had received their primary course of injections during 1961-1962.

Type of Injection	1962	1961	1960
Completed Primary Courses	586	561	524
Boosting Doses	514	366	389
Completed Course with Triple Anitgen	581	508	497

(d) **Poliomyelitis** The early part of the year saw the introduction of an Oral Poliomyelitis Vaccine. Its administration in a syrup overcame the difficulties associated with the Salk Vaccine and during the year, 255 children born in 1962 completed the primary course of three doses. In addition 274 children who were born in the previous year completed their course in 1962.

Although it was at one time thought that the three doses would in themselves be sufficient, it has now been found that a fourth or Booster dose will be necessary on entering school. This will be carried out every Summer Term.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES

General Health Services

The District Health Sub-Committee continues to provide a most useful opportunity for discussion of matters which, though the responsibility of the County Council, nevertheless arouse considerable interest locally. Furthermore, intimate knowledge of local conditions is frequently of help in advising the higher authority. The welfare of infants, old people and the mentally and physically handicapped are cases in point.

I wish to pay tribute to the many voluntary workers who help out at infant welfare and other clinics. Their services are invaluable.

National Dried Milk, Orange Juice and Cod Liver Oil continue to be distributed largely by the W.V.S., at their Centre at 46 Church Street, and at Bramblys Grange Welfare Clinic.

Maternity, Child Welfare and Health Visiting

The continued growth of the town has increased attendances at Clinics. This was very noticeable at South Ham, where the number of Clinics held had to be doubled and the number of attendances increased by over 50%.

Another increase in attendance came in the Clarke Estate area, which towards the end of the year necessitated the clinic to be held weekly.

One problem which is outstanding, and is no nearer solution now than when it was first brought up in 1959, is the provision of a Child Welfare Clinic to serve the Oakridge Estate area.

The efforts of many people to find suitable accommodation have been to no avail, and it would appear from the present state of affairs, that little can be done until a comprehensive plan for the future development of both Health Clinics and Health Centres is produced.

<i>Clinic</i>	<i>Monday</i>		<i>Tuesday</i>		<i>Wednesday</i>		<i>Friday</i>	
	<i>A.M.</i>	<i>P.M.</i>	<i>A.M.</i>	<i>P.M.</i>	<i>A.M.</i>	<i>P.M.</i>	<i>A.M.</i>	<i>P.M.</i>
Bramblys Grange			X _A	X _{AB}			X _A	X _A
South Ham . . .		X _A				X _{AC}		
Kempshott . . .			X _A					
Elmwood Way . .		X _A						

- A — signifies Doctor in attendance.
- B — signifies 1st Tuesday in month only.
- C — signifies 2nd and 4th Wednesdays only.

The table below now shows a breakdown of all the individual Clinics and how much their work has increased over the past two years:

<i>Clinic</i>	1962			1961		
	<i>No. of Clinics held</i>	<i>Number who attended before 1st Birthday</i>	<i>Total Number Attended</i>	<i>No of Clinics held</i>	<i>Number who attended before 1st Birthday</i>	<i>Total Number Attended</i>
Bramblys Grange	155	340	5305	151	355	5346
South Ham .	87	134	3143	48	92	2101
Kempshott .	51	61	1934	51	87	2221
Elmwood Way	29	81	1229	23	53	793
Totals .	322	616	11,611	273	587	10,461

The Health Visitors are informed of all birth notifications of Borough Children, whether they occur within or without the Boundary. They visit the home and offer help and advice. The growing population has already thrown a strain on this understaffed department of the Health Services and although there has been a new addition to the Staff they have all had a hard working year.

District Nursing

The following table shows the number of cases attended and visits paid by the General Nurses and Midwives during 1962.

Year	Midwifery		General Nursing	
	Cases	Visits	Cases	Visits
1962	164	4842	350	7810
1961	171	3107	354	6378
1960	210	4445	285	6804
1959	115	2090	358	7504
1958	82	1517	421	7963

Home Help Service

Total number of applications received and investigated during 1962, 150 (142*) (of this number 36 (31*) did not require assistance for various reasons and 4 (11*) were advanced bookings at the end of the year).

Applications were referred by:

General Practitioner	91 (88*)	Health Visitor	7 (4*)
Almoner	8 (15*)	National Assistance Board	— (5*)
District Nurse/Midwife	25 (16*)	Area Welfare Officer	8 (4*)
Other Sources			10 (10*)

Total Number of cases helped: 221 (196*)

* Figures in brackets refer to 1961.

Type of Case		1962	1961	1960	1959	1958
Short Term	Maternity	33	38	37	23	25
	General Sickness	21	13	19	20	22
	Post Hospital	17	16	12	14	11
	Child Care	—	2	2	3	1
	Special	2	—	2	1	2
Long Term	Chronic Sickness	23	18	16	15	12
	Aged Sickness	38	106	39	30	26
	Aged Infirm	72		65	61	61
	Tuberculosis	1		3	3	3
	Special	—	2	—	—	—

Number of cases completed during the year: 113 (89*)
 Total number of Home Helpers on Register at 31st December: 45 (41*)
 Income — Number of cases paying:

Full Cost	69 (65*)
According to Scale	43 (26*)
Minimum Charge	108 (105*)

* Figures in brackets refer to 1961.

Day Nurseries

There are seven (four*) registered Day Nurseries in the Borough, taking a total of 81 (61*) children, age two to five. Industrialisation of a community brings with it the demand for female labour and the war-time precedent of the married women going out to work is here to stay. Bearing this in mind, and the fact that it will be the younger married age group that will be coming into Basingstoke, applications for such registrations are bound to increase. Indeed, towards the end of the year a number of new applications for registration were under consideration.

Provided parents do not use such Nurseries in order to shed some of their parental responsibility, they have a part to play in our community, especially when there is sickness in the home, or when the mother has to go out to work for economic reasons.

* The words and figures in brackets refer to 1961.

Old People's Welfare

I am grateful to Mr. Dean, Senior Area Welfare Officer for the following Annual Statistics for the Borough:

Visits, Applications and Admissions to Welfare (Part III) Accommodation:

Year	Visits	Applications	Admissions
1962	108	20	13
1961	113	21	14
1960	56	19	15
1959	40	9	10

During the year seven visits were paid to aged sick persons who were then referred to the Bed Service for Chronic Sick Beds.

National Assistance Act 1948. Section 47

During the year one aged lady had to be moved to residential accommodation by means of a Court Order. The execution of such an order, although bringing great material comforts to the person, is nevertheless a painful task to carry out, because whichever way one looks at it, it is still a deprivation of a large measure of individual liberty. It is to be hoped that all supporting services, both statutory and voluntary, will be invoked before the Medical Officer of Health finally has to resort to this measure.

It is with a large measure of joy that in my letter I have referred to the setting up of the Basingstoke Old People's Welfare Committee.

The Chiropody Clinics which are held at Brambly's Grange Health Clinic continue to provide a most valuable service to aged persons.

There has been a further demand for increased clinics to be held and it was only the inclement weather towards the end of the year which kept the number of attendances down on the previous year.

Year	No. of Clinics	Attendances
1962	19	144
1961	17	154
1960	17	159
1959	16	154

Training Centre, Goat Lane

For many years the Annual Report has noted the unsatisfactory conditions under which this centre operated and has had to end with the hope that the new Training Centre planned by the County Council will not be delayed too long. At last, after years of waiting, a new Centre is already well under construction at South Ham and should be opened in 1963.

Family Planning Clinic

Attendance at this Clinic, as in the case of other Clinics, continues to grow in size, and plans are already afoot to increase the number of sessions to be held during the coming year.

All persons attending are interviewed by a lady doctor. The Clinic works in close liaison with the local branch of the Marriage Guidance Council and husbands are encouraged to attend with their wives when this is desirable.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

OF THE AREA

Rainfall

The rainfall for the year followed a fairly average pattern and the monthly figures are given below followed by the totals for the five previous years for purposes of comparison:

January . . .	5.23 in.	July . . .	1.59 in
February . . .	0.49 „	August . . .	3.16 „
March . . .	1.49 „	September . . .	3.34 „
April . . .	2.06 „	October . . .	1.50 „
May . . .	2.32 „	November . . .	3.41 „
June . . .	0.18 „	December . . .	2.73 „

Total for 1962 — 27.50 ins.

1961 . . .	28.66 in.
1960 . . .	40.16 „
1959 . . .	27.63 „
1958 . . .	29.42 „
1957 . . .	26.08 „

Water Supply

The Borough is supplied from wells and boreholes in the chalk at West Ham and Woodgarston. All water is chlorinated at the head works before distribution, and frequent and regular samples of raw and treated waters are subjected to chemical and bacteriological examination in the Company's own laboratory, also from time to time, by an independent authority. All samples of treated water therefrom were satisfactory for the purposes of public supply

The quantity supplied was adequate for all purposes and no restrictions of any kind on the use of water were imposed. The distribution system was extended by 3,612 yards of new service mains (excluding trunk mains) by the Company in 1962 to meet housing development within the Borough.

During the year progress was made with the reconstruction and development of the West Ham works.

I am indebted to the Borough Surveyor for the following information:

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

During the year no problems have arisen in connection with the sewage pumping and disposal, the new sewage pumping station in Basing Road having been completed and brought into commission. The provision of trunk sewers has continued and the sewer in Basing Road is at the present time being extended along the Loddon Valley in a westerly direction to a point near the northern end of Buckskin Lane.

Public Cleansing

The weekly collection of house and trade refuse was maintained and materials were salvaged as far as sales warranted. Some 60% of the refuse was burnt at the destructor to raise steam for sewage pumping. The remainder of the refuse was disposed of by controlled tipping in the Rural District's tip at Marnel Dell by agreement with the Rural District Council.

Public highways and footpaths were cleansed by mechanical and hand sweeping, and the staff engaged on this service was increased.

Cesspool emptying was continued as a rechargeable service at a flat rate, which does not represent the full cost to the Council.

HOUSING

New Houses

I am indebted to the Borough Architect for the following information:

During the year 1962 the following new dwelling-houses were completed:

		1962	1961	1960	1959
Council Built	Traditional Type Houses .	305	103	33	27
	Traditional Type Flats .	45	43	20	50
	Traditional Type Bungalows	19	16	9	6
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		369	162	62	83
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Privately Built		200	226	291	444
Housing Associations		Nil	4	Nil	Nil

At the 31st December, the following dwellings were under construction:

	1962	1961	1960
Borough Council	635	565	191
Private Enterprise	86	103	91
Housing Associations	Nil	Nil	Nil

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

(A) INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. Milk

There remains one H.T.S.T. Pasteurising Establishment in the Borough which is licensed and supervised by the Borough Council, on behalf of the County Council. In addition, 15 retail distributors of milk are licensed on behalf of the County Council in accordance with the provisions of the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960.

Four retail premises are registered for the distribution of fresh cream.

The following table shows the designations, numbers and results of milk samples taken during the year:

<i>Types of Milk</i>		<i>Pasteurised</i>	<i>Pasteurised (T.T.)</i>	<i>T.T.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number of Samples . . .		21	9	24	54
Phosphatase Test	Satis. . .	20	9	—	29
	Unsatis. . .	1	—	—	1
Methylene Blue Test	Satis. . .	19	7	22	48
	Unsatis. . .	—	—	—	—
		1*	2*	2*	5*
Test for Myco. T.B.	Satis. . .	—	—	24	24
	Unsatis. . .	—	—	—	—
Test for Brucella Abortus	Satis. . .	—	—	22	22
	Unsatis. . .	—	—	—	—
				2*	2*

* Tests declared void by Laboratory.

With the exception of one sample of Pasteurised Milk, which failed the Phosphatase Test, all samples were reported as satisfactory. 22 samples of Raw Milk were examined for Brucella Abortus and reported as negative.

2. Ice Cream

During the year 21 samples of Ice Cream were submitted for analysis, with the following results:

Grade 1	7	Grade 2	7
Grade 3	5	Grade 4	2

It is pleasing to note from the above results that the ice cream samples produced and sold locally were reported in the satisfactory Grades 1 and 2.

The samples reported within the Grades 3 and 4 were taken from Itinerant Vendors. These ice creams were prepared in other towns. The manufacturers were contacted in all cases in an endeavour to improve the bacteriological quality of their product.

The Borough has only one ice cream manufacturer as the bulk of this commodity is now supplied by the large ice cream manufacturers to local retailers. This method of ice cream production from a hygienic point of view has many advantages, the principal one being that ice cream being sold in pre-packed containers considerably reduces the risk of infection from contamination.

3. Meat and Other Foods

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	<i>Cattle, excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Horses</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number killed (if known)	179	116	224	737	936	—	2,192
Number inspected	179	116	224	737	936	—	2,192
<i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>							
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	33	—	—	7	37	—	77
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	18.4	—	—	.95	3.95	—	3.51
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>							
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	36	—	36
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	3.8	—	1.64
<i>Cysticercosis</i>							
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

On 1st July, 1962, the Hygiene and Prevention of Cruelty Regulations concerning Slaughterhouses came into operation; as a result the one slaughterhouse in the Borough closed from that date. During the six months period, however, prior to the closing of the slaughterhouse, 172 visits were made and a total of 2,192 carcasses were inspected; this represents a 100% meat inspection service.

Of the 295 Bovine animals examined no evidence of Tuberculosis was found, a further proof of the effectiveness of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food eradication scheme.

Summary — Food Unfit for Human Consumption

Weight of Meat and Offal condemned — 8cwt. 1 qtr. 21lbs.

Weight of " Other Foods " (including canned and packeted foods) condemned — 9cwt. 18lbs.

Food Complaints

During the year the Department dealt with 26 complaints from members of the public concerning purchases of food. These complaints require thorough investigation and interviews with retail traders, wholesalers and often manufacturers, in an endeavour to discover the origin and persons responsible for the offending food.

Frequently it is necessary to have a detailed examination of these foodstuffs carried out either by the Public Analyst or the Public Health Laboratory Service.

Obtaining this information enables the Health Committee to decide the appropriate action which should be taken.

Legal Proceedings — Food and Drugs Act, 1955

One bakery firm was fined £5 for selling a loaf of bread containing rust stains.

One bakery firm was fined £25 for selling an eccles cake containing metal.

One bakery firm was fined £10 for selling an eccles cake containing mould.

One dairy firm was fined £25 for selling a bottle of milk containing glass.

One butchery firm was fined £10 for selling bacon containing maggots.

One grocery firm was fined £20 for selling a packet of cereal containing insects.

Total fines — £95 0s. 0d.

Miscellaneous Food Sampling

Following the notification of three cases of Food Poisoning, nine samples of various suspected foods were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Winchester, for bacteriological examination. In addition, six sewer swabs were placed in the drainage system of a food retailer's premises in the town, in an endeavour to trace any food poisoning infection amongst the staff.

Despite the investigations carried out and the sampling, which included samples of suspected foods and faecal specimens from individual food handlers, there was no direct evidence to show that the infection had resulted from unhygienic practices.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

I am grateful to Mr. J. S. Preston, Chief Sampling Officer for the Hampshire County Council for the following information relating to Food and Drug Sampling during the year 1961/62:

1. 196 samples were procured under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, within the Borough of Basingstoke.

2. MILK SAMPLES

184 samples of milk, including 18 of Channel Islands, were procured and, of these 14 samples (one of Channel Islands) were deficient of fat. The unsatisfactory samples were from individual churns included in separate consignments of milk received at a wholesale dairy however and, in each case the average fat content of the whole supply was satisfactory. Consequently, and as the milk in each consignment was being mixed together on arrival at the dairy, the results did not call for further action. The remaining milk samples were all free from complaint and were of good average quality.

3. MISCELLANEOUS SAMPLES

12 samples of articles other than milk were obtained and were reported to be genuine, with the exception of one which consisted of milk bread. The sample contained 3.1 per cent. of milk solids, an amount considered to be insufficient to warrant the reference to "milk." This matter was taken up with the firm of bakers responsible, who explained that although the ingredients of the type of loaf in question included a certain proportion of milk solids, this was not intended to be sold as milk bread, and that their shop assistant had sold the loaf under this description by mistake, without realising the distinction between milk bread and ordinary bread. In the circumstances and having regard to the relatively small deficiency involved, proceedings were not taken but a warning was given to the firm concerned.

4. GENERAL

Attention was, as usual, given to provisions of the Labelling of Food Order and the Pharmacy and Medicines Act, with regard to their application to the labelling and description of food and drugs, during inspection visits to traders and by reference to advertisements.'

Food Premises

A total of 269 visits were made during the year to various food premises. Generally the standard of hygiene of premises was found to be satisfactory. Ten infringements of the Food Hygiene Regulations were found, but these were of a minor character and received the necessary attention.

SUMMARY

Total number of visits to food premises	269
Number of premises where infringements were found	10
Number of preliminary notices served by structural defects	Nil
Number of verbal notices	10
Number of defects and other infringements remedied	9

(B) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

4. Notices

The Health Committee authorised the serving of one Statutory Notice during the year, in accordance with the powers contained in the Public Health Act, 1936.

103 Informal Notices (written and verbal) were served during the year.

5. Complaints

465 complaints were received and dealt with.

6. Housing Acts, 1957/1961

(a) Unfit Housese

(i) Slum Clearance

Clearance Areas	Nil
Individual Demolition Orders	Nil
Closing Orders	1
Undertaking	1

(ii) (a) Houses Demolished — In Clearance Area	Nil
Not in Clearance Area	10

(b) Unfit Houses Closed	Nil
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(c) Parts of Buildings Closed under Section 18 Housing Act, 1957	Nil
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(d) Unfit Houses made fit and houses in which defects were remedied:	
(i) By informal action	29
(ii) By formal Notice	1
(iii) Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957	Nil

(e) Unfit Houses in temporary use under Section 17 (2) Housing Act, 1957	1
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(b) Improvement Grants

During the year Improvement Grants for a further 34 properties were approved by the Council. This compares with 43 in 1961 and 56 in 1960.

Jointly with the Surveyor's Department, inspections of properties are made in connection with both the Discretionary and Standard Grant Schemes. With few exceptions all improvements were to owner/occupied houses.

7. Rent Act, 1957

Number of applications for Certificates of Disrepair	Nil
Number of decisions to issue Certificates	Nil
Number of Undertakings given by Landlord's under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	2
Number of Certificates issued	Nil
Number of applications by Landlords for cancellation of Certificates of Disrepair	2
Number of Certificates cancelled by Local Authority	2

8. Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

There are 13 licensed caravan sites in the Borough upon which 229 caravans are sited. In addition to these privately owned sites, the Corporation's own site opened this year. This site will greatly assist in alleviating the hardship to caravan occupiers who will be required to vacate sites due to be run down over the next four years.

In the case of sites having a long term licence, the Health Committee have deferred consideration as to the maximum conditons to impose on these sites, until the future of the respective areas in connection with Town Development, is known.

9. Rodent Control

170 complaints were received during the year and in this connection 2,372 visits were made. This figure included visits to dwelling-houses, slaughterhouse and sewage farm, schools, agricultural, industrial and business premises.

In all, a total of 2,021 poisoned baits were laid, with 66 complete takes and 773 partial takes; therefore it can be assumed that a considerable number of rats and mice were destroyed.

Treatment to private dwellings was a free service as in previous years, and business premises requiring treatment were charged at full cost.

Treatment of sewer manholes by baiting continued to show satisfactory results. Following the 10% tests of manholes, only two showed evidence of 'takes.' Maintenance treatments were carried out during May and October, when a total of 22 manholes were chosen for treatment. As a result it is very satisfying to report that only three baits were found to be 'part takes.'

It is apparent that the use of modern baiting techniques and materials has justified this satisfatcory result.

The Council are members of the North Hants Rodent Control Committee, together with representatives from Aldershot Borough, Alton, Farnborough and Fleet Urban District Councils and the Rural District Councils of Alton, Basingstoke and Hartley Wintney, also Officers from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Meetings are held Quarterly in the districts of the constituent authorities, which are attended by Members and Officers of the authorities concerned.

10. Clean Air Act, 1956

40 inspections and observations were made under the provisions of this Act.

Under the prior approval Section 12 applications and notifications were submitted together with the necessary plans and specifications for the Council's approval to install boiler installations.

In some cases, modifications to the boiler plants were requested and agreed. Such modifications were not only beneficial to the public at large in terms of air pollution, but in some instances improved the efficiency of the installation to the advantage of the users.

11. Factories Act, 1961

Part I

1. Inspections

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	17	52	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	111			
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' premises)	51			
Total	179	52	—	—

2. DEFECTS :

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Sanitary Conveniences :					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	1	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—	—
Total	1	1	—	1	—

Part VIII

Outwork — Wearing apparel (Making, etc.) 27

12. Drainage	
Smoke tests	Nil
Coloured water tests	Nil
Systems exposed	2
13. Infected Rooms and Articles	
Rooms disinfected	5
Miscellaneous articles disinfected	10
14. Infestation	
(a) Rooms disinfested	21
Bedding disinfected	11 lots
Miscellaneous disinfestations	17 lots
(b) During the year a total of six complaints of wasps' nests were dealt with. The Council has approved that no charge should be made for this service.	
(c) The Department continued to give advice regarding the identification and treatment of various types of insect infestation (as distinct from vermin) and this service has been much appreciated by the general public.	

15. Table I

Classified Statement of Premises Inspected:

Inspections under the Housing Act	130
Inspections under the Public Health Act	195
Rent Act	8
Works in progress	12
Re-inspections	245
Visits to slaughterhouse	172
Food Premises	269
Food Poisoning	7
In connection with Infectious Diseases	14
Shops Acts	7
Petroleum Act	117
Factories Act	52
Overcrowding	5
Dairies and milk shops	49
Schools	12
Common Lodging house	1
Offensive Trades	3
Work Places	1
Verminous Premises	3
Theatres, Cinemas, Fairs, etc.	1
Tents, vans, sheds and moveable dwellings	381
Ice cream premises	2
Watercourses and Water Sampling	101
Clean Air Act	40
Miscellaneous visits	703
Interviews	912
Rodent Control	2,372

Total 5,814

16. Table II

Defective Conditions Recorded: Water Closets —

Defective flushing cisterns	2
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Drains —

Choked drains	31
Defective drains	5
Gullies cleansed	2
Inspection Chambers repaired	2
Cesspools cleansed	1

Dustbins —

Defective	5
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Dampness —

Defective roofs	20
Defective gutters and rain-water pipes	8

Food Hygiene Regulations —

Food rooms repaired	1
Miscellaneous infringements	9

General —

Defective, etc., walls and ceilings	35
Defective doors	2
Defective floors	11
Defective stoves and fireplaces	1
Defective chimneys	10
Defective windows	7
Accumulations	2
Yards repaired and cleansed	2
Smoke nuisances	3
Defective sinks and baths	5
Miscellaneous	8

I should like to record my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their continued interest and support during the year; also for the co-operation of the Corporation Officers and for the loyalty and assistance of the Health Department Staff.

C. H. DAVID.

Senior Public Health Inspector.